

Appl. No. 10/735,105
Response to Office Action mailed January 19, 2006

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A sliding contact seal structure, comprising:
a shaft member having a sliding contact surface that comes into contact with a seal member and relatively slides with respect to the seal member, wherein the sliding contact surface is defined to have a surface energy of 50 dyne/cm or less for contact with the seal member.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A sliding contact seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the seal member has a sliding contact surface which is defined to have a surface energy and slidably contacts the sliding contact surface of the shaft member, and wherein a sum of the surface energy of the seal member and the surface energy of the shaft member is 95 dyne/cm or less.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A sliding contact seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the sliding contact surface of the shaft member comprises a film forming material having a surface energy of 50 dyne/cm or less, the film forming material formed by any one of chemical deposition, plasma CVD, physical vapor deposition, vacuum deposition, and sputtering.